

AMENDED CLAIM SET

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (previously presented) A paper feeding apparatus, comprising:
holding means for holding a plurality of sheet-like recording media;
separation means for separating a single recording medium from the recording media held by the holding means;
movement means for moving the separated recording medium in a predetermined direction; and
guide means for guiding a lower surface of the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path, the guide means being a plate-like member and having a predetermined region and a remaining region, the predetermined region being formed adjacent to the remaining region in a direction perpendicular to a conveyance direction of the recording medium, such that the recording medium make contact only with the remaining region and not with the predetermined region.
2. (previously presented) The paper feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein notches are provided in the predetermined region.
3. (previously presented) The paper feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein recesses are provided in the predetermined region.

Reply dated March 27, 2006

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4. (previously presented) The paper feeding apparatus of claim 1, wherein the predetermined region include a region which correspond to a corner part of the recording medium to-be-guided.

5. (currently amended) A paper feeding apparatus, comprising:
holding means for stacking and holding a plurality of sheet-like recording media;
separation means for separating a single recording medium from the stacked recording media by separation pawls;
movement means for moving the separated recording medium in a predetermined direction; and

guide means for guiding a lower surface of the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path, the guide means being a plate-like member and formed with a space for resuming original states of deformed parts of the recording medium having been deformed during the separation by the separation means, for guiding the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path, the space being formed only at a region corresponding to a corner portion of the recording medium to-be guided.

6. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:
a paper feeding apparatus including:
holding means for holding a plurality of sheet-like recording media,
separation means for separating a single recording medium from the recording media held by the holding means,

movement means for moving the separated recording medium in a predetermined direction, and

guide means for guiding a lower surface of the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path, the guide means being a plate-like member and having a predetermined region predetermined regions and a remaining region, the predetermined region being formed adjacent to the remaining region in a direction perpendicular to a conveyance direction of the recording medium, such that the recording medium make contact only with the remaining region and not with the predetermined regions; and

an image forming apparatus body for forming an image on the recording medium fed from the paper feeding apparatus.

7. (original) The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein notches are provided in the predetermined regions.

8. (original) The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein recesses are provided in the predetermined regions.

9. (currently amended) The image forming apparatus of claim 6, wherein the predetermined region includes a region that corresponds regions include regions which correspond to a corner part of the recording medium to-be-guided.

10. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus, comprising:

a paper feeding apparatus including:

holding means for stacking and holding a plurality of sheet-like recording media,

separation means for separating a single recording medium from the stacked recording media by separation pawls,

movement means for moving the separated recording medium in a predetermined direction, and

guide means for guiding a lower surface of the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path, the guide means being a plate-like member and formed with a space for resuming original states of deformed parts of the recording medium having been deformed during the separation by the separation ~~means~~means, for guiding the moving recording medium along a predetermined conveyance path, the space being formed only at a region corresponding to a corner part of the recording medium to-be guided; and

an image forming apparatus body for forming an image on the recording medium fed from the paper feeding apparatus.